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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

DECREE LAW AGAINST WAR PROPAGANDA;
MISTREAT PRISONERS

DECREE LAW FOR PROTECTION OF PEACE -- Sofia, Izgrev, 26 Dec 50

At its 25 December 1950 session, the National Assembly unanimously adopted the following law for the protection of peace:

1. War agitation and propaganda, which are a crime against peace and humanity, are prohibited.
2. All agitation aimed at provoking, directly or indirectly, armed aggression of one country against another, whether oral, in print, by radio, or by any other method, is prohibited.
3. Propaganda, oral or in print; writing, radio, motion pictures, theater, art, literature, or any other medium, aimed at provoking the increase of armaments, atomic, hydrogenic, chemical, or bacteriological warfare; the spread of racial discrimination designed to provoke the mass extermination of nations or groups; and all other military, economic, or moral preparation for war are prohibited.
5. Persons convicted of the offenses listed under Article 2 shall be sentenced to a life imprisonment. Persons convicted of the offenses listed under Article 3 shall be sentenced to 15 years in prison and confiscation of their entire property, or part thereof, according to Article 30 of the Penal Code.

REPORTS CONDITIONS IN FORCED-LABOR CAMP -- Paris, La Bulgarie Libre et Independante, 15 Jan 51

A group of prisoners from Sofia, including Asen Stambuliyiski, son of the late statesman Alexander Stambuliyiski, was sent to the Belene forced-labor camp in Svishtov Okoliya /near Rumanian border/ recently. The group, consisting of 60 prisoners, traveled in a cattle car, every opening of which had been tightly closed. During the trip, which lasted 24 hours, the car was never opened and the prisoners received neither food nor drink.

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On arrival at Belen railroad station, the prisoners had to walk the 16 kilometers to the camp. During the march each group of five prisoners was accompanied by a guard armed with a machine gun.

The camp consists of 16 wooden barracks, with 120 prisoners assigned to each. At present, the camp has 1,200 inmates. White lines are painted at a distance of 4 meters around each barracks, and crossing the lines is punished by death.

The prisoners work 12 hours a day, from 0600 to 1800 hours. The work is hard and almost beyond human endurance. It is performed under the constant surveillance of militiamen. Work quotas are so high that their fulfillment during work hours is impossible, but nevertheless severe punishments, such as confinement and beatings, are inflicted for nonfulfillment.

The inmates are fed rotten beans and cabbage. The poor food and overwork produce complete exhaustion and bring on the slow death of most prisoners.

REPORTS TORTURES AT INTERROGATION -- Paris, La Bulgaria Libre et Independante,
15 Jan. 51

A Bulgarian refugee, identified by the initials G.D.U., tells that on 14 September 1950, while working in a field, he was apprehended by two militiamen, who ordered him to join them, because the director of the National Security section in Ivaylovgrad wished to see him about some information. On arrival in that city, he was put in a prison cell and soon after led before his interrogator.

The questions asked were whether G.D.U. knew about the formation of a resistance group, the persons who participated in it, the weapons at their disposal, etc. G.D.U. answered that he knew nothing about it. The questions were repeated several times. Finally, the prisoner was returned to his cell. A few minutes later the interrogator entered the cell and started to repeat the same questions and, after receiving the same answers, began to hit the prisoner furiously. When the prisoner tried to defend himself, he was tied and thrown on the cement floor, where the beatings continued. Militiaman Terziev, who joined the interrogator, threatened the prisoner with execution and the arrest of his entire family. He was then forced to take off his shirt and lie down on the floor, which had been previously sprayed with water. A militiaman began to beat him on the chest with a sandbag and the prisoner soon fainted from pain and lack of air.

When he regained consciousness, he was ordered to stand against the wall and electrodes were applied to his ears and feet. The electric shock, caused him to faint again. He does not recall how the tortures continued, but at the end he was completely exhausted. However, he continued to give negative answers and finally he was released on a promise not to reveal his experiences. He escaped from the country 2 days later.

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